

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claim 11 and leaves claim 13 unchanged.
Therefore, the present application has pending claim 13.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claim 13 is allowed.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiernan (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,988) in view of Northcutt (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,737). As indicated above, claim 11 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claim 11 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claim 11 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Tiernan and Northcutt, whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. The cancellation of claim 11 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claim 11 in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance based on claim 13. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claim 13 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.37418CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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